

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 9 and 19-24 remain pending in the application with the present amendments. Claim 23 is amended herein to correct a typographical error which occurred when the most recent amendment was submitted on March 14, 2006. All other claims remain unchanged with the present amendments. In the Office Action, all claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,349,301 to Mitchell et al. ("Mitchell") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,954,728 to Kusumoto et al. ("Kusumoto"). For the reasons set forth below, applicants submit that the presently pending claims are fully distinguished from the combination of *Mitchell* and *Kusumoto*. Applicants respectfully request that the present rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn in view of the amendments and remarks made herein.

The combination of *Mitchell* and *Kusumoto* neither teaches nor suggests the features of the invention recited in claim 1 and other claims pending herein. The combination of *Mitchell* and *Kusumoto* neither teaches nor suggests a system which satisfies the following requirements a) *making an object available on a terminal computer*, b) *to be controlled by operations by the operator of the terminal computer*, c) *when the operator solves a problem presented during execution of a program on the terminal computer*, in which d) *the terminal computer is operable to permit the operator of the terminal computer to participate in the virtual world by transmitting information regarding operations of the operator to a server computer*, in which the server computer includes e) *object storage means operable to store a plurality of objects transmitted from ones of the plurality of terminal computers*; and f) *object display means operable to display a stored plurality of objects on a plurality of terminal computers on the*

*basis of the operations by the operators . . . using information regarding the operations received from the plurality of terminal computers.*

The passages of *Mitchell* cited by the Examiner merely describe downloading objects from a server computer and the user's subsequent selection of one or more of them for display. In addition, the user is permitted to view and manipulate objects, e.g., by adding, deleting or moving them within a VWE (virtual world environment) (col. 6, lns. 29-37). However, *Mitchell* neither teaches nor suggests element e) the server computer includes object storage means operable to store a *plurality of objects transmitted from ones of the plurality of terminal computers*. In addition, the passages of *Mitchell* cited by the Examiner neither teach nor suggest requirement c) the terminal computer being operable to make available an *object to the operator when the operator solves a problem presented during execution of a program on a terminal computer*.

It is respectfully submitted that *Kusumoto* neither teaches nor suggests the features of the invention which are not taught by *Mitchell*. Thus, the combination of *Mitchell* and *Kusumoto* fail to teach a system in which a terminal computer is operable to perform "c)" make an object available to the operator when the operator solves a problem during execution of a program on the terminal computer. *Kusumoto* merely describes presenting the operator of a terminal computer with a menu from which to choose an advertisement in connection with displaying an avatar of the operator. Merely choosing an advertisement from a menu does not meet the recited language of making an object available to the operator *when the operator solves a problem presented during execution of a program on a computer*. In the system taught by *Kusumoto*, no problem is presented to an operator to be solved as a condition to the advertisement being made available on the terminal computer.

In addition, *Kusumoto* neither teaches nor suggests displaying objects by a server computer on a plurality of terminal computers on the basis of operations by operators of the plurality of terminal computers, in which data regarding such operations is transmitted from the terminal computers to the server computer, based on which the server computer displays the objects.

In addition, suggestion and motivation are lacking for the person of ordinary skill to combine the teachings of *Mitchell* with those of *Kusumoto*. The advertisements taught by *Kusumoto* are not objects within the meaning of that term as used in claim 1. The advertisements do not meet requirement f) of claim 1 as stated above, in that advertisements are not displayed on the basis of operations by operators of terminal computers based on information regarding the operations by the operators, as received by the server computer from the terminal computers. Since the advertisements are not objects within the meaning of the term in claim 1, *Kusumoto* is not properly combined with *Mitchell* to reject claim 1.

Independent claims 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 contain similar recitations and are believed to overcome the rejections over *Mitchell* and *Kusumoto* for at least the same reasons as discussed above. All other claims depend from one of the above-mentioned claims and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

Finally, U.S. Patent No. 6,009,458 to Hawkins et al. ("*Hawkins*") indicated by the Examiner as being "relevant prior art of record," neither teaches nor suggests the above-stated requirement c) of claim 1. *Hawkins* neither teaches nor suggests a terminal computer operable to make an object available to the operator when the operator solves a problem during execution of a program on the terminal computer.

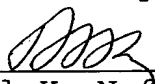
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: August 23, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By



Daryl K. Neff

Registration No.: 38,253

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicants